

animal from a somewhat oblique angle, and the head was not clearly visible, but the hind quarters and its left side were extremely well visible. Its size was that of a medium-sized dog, and the body proportions were also dog-like; it was uniformly grey-brown, with short hair; the strange tail, extremely wide at the base, seemed to be a continuation of the hind quarters; the hind leg was strongly marked with almost black horizontal stripes.

Generally, although dog-like, it was not a Canid, because of the structure of the hind part of the body. The most remarkable feature was the strange manner of running; although the animal was swinging regularly sideways, the hind part of the body made a kind of bobbing, up and down movement; the impression was as if the animal was drunk, as I had never seen anything like it. I hoped to find some specific characteristics from the footprints, but the sandy soil did not show them up; they were of the size of a medium-sized dog's imprint.

I made all the observations with great care, hoping to discuss the animal with my colleagues, but they unfortunately had been collecting on the opposite side of the road, and had not seen it. Later, back in Canberra, I came across an illustration of the Tasmanian Tiger, and immediately recognised it as the animal I had observed on my trip.

The discovery of the carcase in the area of Eucla, and my observation of the live specimen, convinces me that the animal still exists on the mainland of Australia.

Ecological conditions of the areas west of the Warrego River and of Eucla are somewhat similar—arid, stony, uninhabited areas; the Aborigines probably have knowledge of the animal, but few white men venture into that environment. Now, however, I feel that in the near future this old problem should be solved.

—S. J. PARAMONOV, Canberra, A.C.T.

Oriental Pratincole at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary.—

For many years the southern limit of the Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)—a migrant wader from northern Asia—was considered to be Point Cloates. However in November and December 1964, J. Ford saw two birds at Hamelin Pool Lake, Shark Bay, and collected one in December 1965 (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 10 (3), 1966: 74). The species has now been observed in the Perth area. On January 28, 1967, I took a Russian ecologist, Mr Victor Kamenev from the visiting research ship *Ob*, on an ornithological tour around Perth. At Pelican Point we were very interested to see two Oriental Pratincoles on the western side of the spit, on the bare sand, in company with a Grey Plover. I informed other ornithologists and the two birds were seen again on January 29 and 30, with R. H. Stranger, and on February 3, with M. Tarbottom.

The general body colour of the birds was dark brown, whole-coloured with no markings, and no rufous tone about it. The breast was dusky, with a rather ill-defined "bib" pattern in one bird, in frontal view. This was more defined in the second bird, the black line curving around the eye and enclosing a chestnut patch. The abdomen was white. Beak dark. Legs light-coloured, greyish-brown, and comparatively short. The wings and tail were long. In flight the clear-cut white rump was conspicuous. The tail was broadly tipped black, with no white in the outer tail feathers, and showed a shallow forking. The wing quills were black. The birds, when disturbed, flew back and forth several times and had a graceful flight.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.